

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed June 15, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite since claims 1 and 18 do not define the pattern and the function of the pattern does not specify the scope for the structure of the lamp. Without agreeing with the Examiner, claims 1 and 18 have been amended for better clarity.

It is respectfully submitted that "a pattern configured to increase a diffuseness of the discharge arc," as recited in claims 1 and 18 is definite and a clear structural feature. The specification and dependent claims further recite various embodiments, such as recited in claim 8, which specifically recite that " wherein the pattern is formed by at least one of a laser treatment, sandblasting, surface etching, surface slitting and roughening, and is optionally finished by fire polishing."

Page 3, second paragraph of the Office Action states that for "examination purposes, the examiner will take the pattern to be a layer that increase diffuseness of the lamp." (Emphasis added)

At the outset, contrary to the indication in the Response to Arguments section on page 8 of the Office Action, it should be noted that Applicants are not relying on the feature "the layer." One skilled in the art would have no trouble understanding the meaning of a "pattern [that] includes shapes which are overlapping along an axis parallel to the at least one of the inner vessel and the outer bulb when viewed from a direction perpendicular to the axis," as recited in claims 1 and 18. Thus, claims 1 and 18 are definite and comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that a layer including the pattern may be one embodiment of the present invention. Other embodiments, such as recited in claims 7 and 8, include a pattern formed by laser treatment, sandblasting, surface etching, surface slitting or roughening of one or more surfaces, such as the inner or outer surfaces of the inner vessel or the outer bulb.

It is respectfully submitted that a bulb having "a pattern

configured to increase a diffuseness of the discharge arc, wherein the pattern includes shapes which are overlapping along an axis parallel to the at least one of the inner vessel and the outer bulb when viewed from a direction perpendicular to the axis," which is specifically recited in claims 1 and 18, is clear and definite, thus meeting the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-15 and 17-20 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,723,937 (Whitman). Further, claims 5 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Whitman. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-15 and 17-20 are patentable Whitman for at least the following reasons.

Whitman is directed to a directed to a lamp having a light-scattering coating 26. As specifically recited on column 2, line 46, the light-scattering coating 26 contains light-scattering particles 30. As clearly shown in FIG 1(b), the light-scattering particles 30 are separated from each other along an axis parallel to the envelope 12 and do NOT overlap when viewed from a direction

perpendicular to the axis parallel to the envelope 12.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 18, amongst other patentable elements requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

an outer bulb, wherein at least one of the inner vessel and the outer bulb comprises a pattern configured to increase a diffuseness of the discharge arc, wherein the pattern includes shapes which are overlapping along an axis parallel to the at least one of the inner vessel and the outer bulb when viewed from a direction perpendicular to the axis.

A pattern that includes shapes, which are overlapping along an axis parallel to the at least one of the inner vessel and the outer bulb when viewed from a direction perpendicular to the axis, is nowhere taught or suggested in Whitman. Rather, Whitman teaches a light-scattering coating 26 that includes particles 30 that are separated from each other along an axis parallel to the envelope 12 when viewed from a direction perpendicular to the axis.

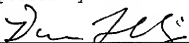
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 18 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted

that claims 2-15, 17 and 19-20 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 18.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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